

Forest Feature

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

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Lawetlat'la Nominated as Culturally Significant

"Where ever we are in the area, we can see at least one of the three sacred mountains," said dAVE Burlingame, Táytñapam (Upper Cowlitz) descendant and Cultural Resources Director for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. "If we can look up at *Lawetlat'la* we know where we are. If we know *where* we are, we know *who* we are."

Recently, the Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation voted unanimously to nominate **Lawetlat'la** or Mount St. Helens for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property of significance to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Yakama Nation.

The nomination was the result of a partnership between the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Cowlitz Tribe. Representatives from the Tribe and Forest have been working toward this outcome for several years.

"The Governor's Council sees this as a good example of a successful partnership between tribes and government agencies working together to recognize and manage important places of cultural significance," said Rick McClure of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. "I'd like to thank Chairman Bill Iyall, Phil Harju, dAVE Burlingame and Nathan Reynolds of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe for making the trip to Olympia for the meeting."

Cowlitz Tribe

Burlingame explained the value of this recommendation and the possible listing on the National Historic Register. He said the tribe will have to be consulted about any development impacting the visual or cultural attributes of Mount St. Helens. He said the Cowlitz seek to preserve the volcano in all its grandeur and beauty for future generations, "To use the cliché, we try to make every decision with the seven future generations in mind."

The Cowlitz and Gifford Pinchot National Forest acknowledge and respect the mountains' cultural significance to other tribes as well.

Rick McClure, Heritage and Tribal Programs Manager

The need for working with the tribes is a priority for Gifford Pinchot employees, and Rick McClure is the key player in these endeavors. "It's always an open and cooperative process, no secrets or what-ifs with the Forest Service these days," said Burlingame. "Rick always made it clear the things we had to do to make the application a success."

"The Forest Service and The Gifford Pinchot National Forest have long held as important the charge of caring for significant places for the American people," said McClure. "Examples like this effort and the Huckleberry Fields Handshake Agreement with Yakama Nation show the fulfillment of this responsibility to the area's first peoples."



Dr. Paul Gleeson and Janine Bowe chop (left) of the Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation present a certificate to Bill Iyall, Chairman, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and Gifford Pinchot National Forest Heritage Program Manager, Rick McClure (right) listing Mount St. Helens as a place of traditional cultural significance.